



**6th KIGALI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DECLARATION (KICD)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THE ROLE OF SECURITY ORGANS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND GIRLS**

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Kampala, Uganda*

"TOGETHER AND UNITED WE CAN – END VAWG IN AFRICA"

**Paper presented by
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Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda,
Director General of National Police of Algeria and Chair of KICD,
Inspector General of Police of Uganda and incoming Chair of KICD,
Distinguished Heads of Police from across Africa,
Heads and Members of Delegations representing Defense Forces, Prison
Services, Justice and Internal Affairs,
Distinguished Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and Development
Cooperation Partners,
The UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda,
Colleagues, Heads of Agencies from the UN System in Uganda,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me start by thanking the IGP of Uganda for inviting me to be part of this 6th AGM of the Kigali International Conference Declaration. I also want to thank you Your Excellency, President Museveni and all the people of your beloved country, Uganda for your warm hospitality and generosity – which makes Uganda one of the most visited countries in Africa.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

On 27 October 2010, I had the honor to witness the birth of the KICD. On that beautiful day in Kigali, Rwanda, more than 150 participants representing Police Chiefs, CID Directors, Senior Police and Military Officers responsible for Gender and Community Policing as well as prominent members of civil society organisations, UN, and academia drawn from 12 African countriesⁱ unanimously adopted the KICD. In my closing remarks on that day, I expressed how impressed I had been to see “*for the first time in my 15 years’ experience as a gender activist, a gathering of men than women in uniform discussing the complex issue of eliminating violence against women and girls*”.

The uniqueness and seriousness of that international gathering was captured by the commitment, focus and active contribution of participants in the plenary panel discussions and working groups. For the first time, I saw Africa

coming together as one, to invest in and enhance the role of security organs in Ending Violence against Women and Girls in Africa. In the words of the Commission General of Police (Rwanda);

“We have broken new ground and proclaimed a Kigali Declaration that shall be the Blue Print of the role of Security Organs in Ending Violence against Women and Girls We were honoured by the presence of delegates representing security organs from 12 African countries. Their active participation is a clear indication of their own government’s commitment to support this noble cause” (Rwanda CGP, 2010).

Allow me to take a few minutes of your attention to share a bit of background on the Campaign through which the KICD was borne. The Africa UNiTE Campaign was part of the former UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban ki Moon’s Global UNiTE Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) which he officially launched on 25 February 2008. He did this in response to a call from feminist and women rights organizations from all parts of the world for collective and sustainable efforts to eliminate the human scourge of violence. The Africa UNiTE Campaign provided a platform for coordinated, strategic and enhanced visibility, advocacy and programming to address VAWG across all of Africa. Its overall objective was *“to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and responding to Violence against Women and girls in all parts of Africa.”*

Thus, the Campaign mobilized a wide range of actors: governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, community and Faith Based Organizations, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in supporting governments to address this pandemic.

Your Excellency, I am proud to say to you that the Security Sector Initiative is the Best Practice of the UN Secretary General's Campaign on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, which in Africa we called Africa UNiTE Campaign. Through this campaign, we have seen security sector within and across countries indeed UNiTE their intelligence, resources, energy and commitment to end violence against women and girls in Africa. Other groups including the youth, and traditional leaders also formed similar Networks - but they have not been as successful as what you are witnessing here today. As Commander in Chief of Uganda, you have all the reasons to be proud. You have your champions and foot soldiers making sure that no woman or girl is subjected to violence of any form. Today my message to the distinguished participants is that ***“TOGETHER AND UNITED WE CAN – END VAWG IN AFRICA”***

While the SG's Campaign officially ended in 2015, in Africa we continue to implement his vision when he said;

“We must UNiTE.



Violence against women [and girls] must not be tolerated, in any form, in any context, in any circumstance by any political leader or by any government.

There can be NO exception, NO excuse, and NO delay.”

-UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon

Today we are gathered here to witness and learn the transformative actions which have been taken up by Security Sector from across Africa since they made their commitment in the KICD in 2010. I have been informed that the number of countries that have signed up to and implemented the KICD has risen from 12 in 2010 to more than 44 in 2017. This is impressive and only goes to show that as security sector you continue to live up to what you signed up for - “**defending the rights and ensuring the security of the women and girls**”. Your actions are a role model to be emulated by the rest of the world. As the Secretariat of the Africa UNiTE Campaign, UN Women is now documenting the KICD story, with the objective of sharing it with the Africa Union Commission and the new UN Secretary General – Mr Antonio Gutierrez. With due respect Your Excellency, President Museveni, I seek your support (as I did also with President Paul Kagame of Rwanda) in bringing this Initiative to the Assembly of Heads of States at the Africa Union.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Africa is the new frontier for inclusive economic growth with abundant opportunities in a wide range of sectors. Studies show that Africa growth rates have been ranging between 5-9 per cent over the last decade. But this economic trend, will however, be hampered by Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). If we do not tackle this vice in our communities and our countries, we will not be able to achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In a recent by UN Women and Economic Commission for Africa (2013/4), on the “*Socio-Economic Costs of VAWG in Africa*”, it was found out that Gender Based Violence (GBV) is the most prevalent type of violence in Africa ranging from 66 percent in Central Africa, 42 percent in West Africa, 39 percent in East Africa and 30 percent in Southern Africa. The study further revealed that the costs incurred by African countries in responding to GBV ranged from 1.2 percent to 2.0 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP). We can no longer stand by and watch the economies of our beloved Africa bleed from this social scourge. We have now set the year 2030 as “*the Expiry Date for Gender Inequality*” and to achieve this goal, we need to tackle and end VAWG. *United and Together We Can!*

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Violence against women and girls is of grave magnitude in Africa. According to a study led by the World Health Organization (**WHO**), 45,5% of women in Africa have experienced physical and sexual violence compared to 35% globally. The situation is worse in certain countries; for example, Uganda's police force estimates that, in 2011, 74% of women were subject to gender based violence in some regions, with the Inspector General of the Police declaring it the "*biggest threat to the wellbeing of Ugandans, after terrorism*" (Daily Monitor 2014". **PAUSE!**

Specifically looking at domestic violence 47% of women in Cote d'Ivoire, and 71% of women in Ethiopia, said that they had experienced violence by their spouse in their life time (Rescue, 2012). Furthermore, national figures often underestimate the true extent of the problem as many cases go unreported. An in-depth report on two Nigerian communities showed that two thirds (75%) of women surveyed had been subjected to violence, whereas less than 1% of these cases were reported to the police (Clifford Odimegwu, 2001). In South Africa, only an estimated one in 20 cases of abuse is reported to the police. I could go on and on, but the point I want to make here is that, GBV remains a huge challenge for our continent and we now need to engage various strategies to address it.

While data is necessary to allow us to track progress especially in the context of the SGDs which have specific targets on ending violence against women

and girls, we should not forget that this not only about numbers. It is about lives. Lives of our mothers, grandmothers, daughters, nieces, wives and all women and girls in our communities. Let us all find creative ways in which that perpetrators are not only reported by the victims. Let's make it a community responsibility to report such crimes and come up with protection strategies to avoid further victimization of the reporter. I am sure we can do it. That is why we are gathered here as police, prosecutors, army, judiciary, correctional services and the list goes on and on.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

We cannot discuss ending violence against women and girls without also addressing one other phenomenon which is now becoming a real challenge for Africa - that of Human trafficking. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), human trafficking is the fastest-growing activities of trans-national criminal organizations generating an estimated \$150 billion in profits per annum as of 2014.

In 2012, the ILO also estimated that 21 million victims are trapped in modern-day slavery and of these, 14.2 million (68%) were exploited for labor, 4.5 million (22%) were sexually exploited, and 2.2 million (10%) were exploited in state-imposed forced labor. Sex trafficked victims face threats of violence from many sources, including brokers, brothel owners, madams, traffickers,

and corrupt local law enforcement officials. Victims of trafficking (most of whom are women), also experience physical violence from law enforcement during raids and are also exposed to different psychological stress. ***“Human trafficking is very COMPLICATED and requires that we adopt COMPLEX measures to tackle it HEAD ON!”***

I want to challenge you as Security Organs to work together to UNITE your efforts across borders within and outside of Africa to fight the perpetrators of trafficking in women and girls. The illegal brokers, who are the main culprits in this case, all use mobile phones to communicate – and I am sure you guys have all the intelligence and resources to catch them and deal them decisively. ***United and Together We Can!***

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Ending Violence against Women and Girls calls for actions not only by security organs, but by a multitude of actors and use of multi-sectoral approaches. UN Women has over the years been advocating for the adoption and use of comprehensive multi-sectoral approaches to End VAWG. These include among others, provision of legal services, psycho-social support, economic empowerment, treatment and prophylaxis for sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDs, and forensic examination for prosecution cases. For example, UN Women Ethiopia, has been working with both the

Government and Ethiopia CSOs to model Shelters for Survivors and in 2016 we produced a Manual on Establishing Multi-Sectoral Centers for Survivors of GBV – which can now help others to replicate. We also know that Rwanda has the **ISANGE One Stop Center** which has been documented. We now know what needs to be done and how to do it, and so no more excuses for not ***ACTING to End VAWG***.

Your Excellency, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

I would not end my remarks without addressing one issue which is dear to my heart – the role of the Media in combating violence against women and girls. For those who are watching CNN and BBC you are familiar with the popular statement that “*the media is the enemy of the people*”. Such statements are really disturbing. As Africa, we do not want to go that route. For Africa, the Media is a key player in securing the peace, security and development of our people. We therefore need to embrace the media and the media in turn needs to be pro-active in positively reporting on issues that affect women and girls. Recently, UN Women working closely with the AU Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security held a training on “**Gender responsive reporting in conflict, post conflict and fragile settings**”. As a result of the training, we have now produced a “*Handbook on Reporting on Gender, Peace and Security*”. I am looking forward to the KICD Centre of Excellence which has

been established in Rwanda to take this up and make it one of your training modules.

Once again, I thank the organisers - in particular the IGP of Uganda - for inviting me to this meeting, to personally witness the “*growth of the baby which I saw being borne way back in 2010*”. I feel like a proud mother celebrating the 7th birthday of their beloved baby. I am convinced that **KICD** will continue to grow from strength to strength and will be the main driver for ending violence against women and girls in Africa.

“Ending Violence against Women and Girls is no longer an option but a priority for development, economic and social cohesion, peace, security and human rights”. We must all take personal and collective responsibility to ACT and STOP Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa. ***United and Together We Can!***

I wish you successful deliberations. And THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

ⁱ Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda and Zambia